

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-22 (canceled)

23. (Previously Presented): A method of performing a joint replacement surgery on a patient, the method comprising:

positioning the patient on the surgical table in a selected position;

making an incision in the patient about the joint to be surgically repaired;

mounting a retractor support apparatus to the operating table;

positioning the retractor support apparatus about the incision;

mounting at least one flesh engaging retractor to the retractor support apparatus wherein the flesh engaging retractor engages the flesh of the patient and exposes the joint to be surgically repaired;

mounting a retractor to the retractor support apparatus wherein a retractor blade of the retractor engages and dislocates a first bone from a second bone of the joint to be surgically repaired; and

displacing the first bone from the second bone of the joint to be surgically repaired such that the surgical procedure can be performed on either the first bone or the second bone or both the first and second bones.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the joint to be repaired is a hip joint comprising an acetabulum and a femur having a femoral ball.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the femoral ball is dislocated from the acetabulum such that both the femoral ball and acetabulum are in selected positions such that there is access to perform the surgical procedure.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the joint to be surgically repaired is a

shoulder joint comprising the humerus having a humeral ball and glenoid cavity.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the humerus is dislocated from the glenoid cavity such that the humeral ball and the glenoid cavity may be surgically repaired.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23 and wherein mounting the retractor support apparatus to the table comprises:

mounting a field post to the operating table wherein the field post extends substantially vertically from the operating table; and

mounting a retractor support to the field post wherein the retractor support includes at least one movable arm that is positionable in a selected position about the incision.

29 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein dislocating the first bone from the second bone comprises:

manipulating an articulated joint of a retractor handle to vertically adjust a retractor blade about the first bone; and

manipulating a mechanical system engaging the retractor handle to apply a force to the first bone such that the first bone is dislocated from the second bone.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein manipulating the mechanical mechanism to dislocate the first bone from the second bone comprises manipulating a gear pin attached to the retractor handle that operably engages a rack on the retractor handle such that the manipulation of the gear pin engages the rack and applies the force to the first bone to dislocate the first bone from the second bone.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, and further comprising mounting a second bone engaging retractor to the retractor support apparatus wherein the second bone engaging retractor engages the first bone and displaces the first bone from the second bone such that the

surgical procedure can be performed.

32. (Previously Presented) A table mounted system for performing a surgical procedure to a joint of a patient, the system comprising:

- a retractor support apparatus mounted to a surgical table wherein a portion of the retractor support apparatus is positioned about the joint;
- a plurality of flesh engaging retractors attached to the retractor support apparatus wherein the flesh engaging retractors retract the flesh from the joint to expose the joint; and
- a bone engaging retractor mounted to the retractor support apparatus wherein the bone engaging retractor engages a bone of the joint and dislocates the bone from a second bone.

33. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 32 and further comprising a bone displacing retractor mounted to the retractor support apparatus wherein the bone displacing retractor displaces the first bone from the second bone such that there is access to perform a surgical procedure on either the first bone or the second bone.

34. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 32, wherein the retractor support apparatus comprises:

- a field post attached to the surgical table wherein the field post extends substantially vertically from the surgical table; and
- a support arm mounted to the field post wherein the support arm is positioned into a selected position wherein the flesh engaging retractors, the bone dislocating retractor and the bone displacing retractor are mounted to the movable support arm.

35. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 32, wherein the bone dislocating retractor comprises:

- a retractor blade for engaging the bone;

a handle mounted to the retractor support apparatus;  
an articulated joint attaching the retractor blade to the handle wherein an articulated joint vertically adjusts a position of the retractor blade; and  
a rack and pinion system for adjusting a longitudinal position of the retractor blade wherein the rack and pinion system dislocates the first bone from the second bone.

36. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 32, wherein the bone displacing retractor comprises:

a retractor blade for engaging the bone;  
a handle mounted to the retractor support apparatus;  
an articulated joint joining the handle and the blade wherein the articulated joint allows the blade to be vertically positioned; and  
a rack and pinion system attached to the handle wherein the rack and pinion system provides a force to the bone to displace a first bone from the second bone.